

The entire Alabama House Republican delegation, along with 139 members of the House Republican conference, once again went to the House floor last week to tell House Democrat leaders to, “Stop the government takeover of health care!”

The week before, one Republican Representative after another went to the House floor to ask a simple yet relevant question “Where are the jobs?”

Back in February, the Democrat leadership of Congress passed (without a single Republican vote) a \$787 billion stimulus bill with one simple promise – it would keep unemployment below 8 percent and create 3.5 million jobs over the next two years.

As you probably know, the national unemployment rate has risen to 9.5 percent and is expected to be even higher once the July numbers are released.

The answer to our question – “Where are the jobs?” – is an important one if the American people are going to have any confidence in what the Democrat majority says as it proposes a new government health plan costing \$1.6 trillion, financed through \$818 billion in new taxes on individuals and small businesses. If their ideas don’t deliver results, how can even members of their own party support the majority’s initiatives?

The American people have a genuine concern about what they are seeing come out of the government in Washington.

Republicans know our health care system needs repair. We do not want to see it destroyed all in the name of trying to make it better.

My colleagues and I have laid out principles we would be able to support in any health care reform legislation that comes to the floor of the House for a vote. These principles include protecting the doctor-patient relationship, expanding access, controlling costs, reforming medical liability, and reining in the waste, fraud and abuse that characterize government-run health care.

I was disappointed – but not surprised – to see that these principles were brushed aside in favor of more government spending and more bureaucratic control over decisions which should be made by patients and their doctors.

As of this writing, it appears the majority's relentless charge toward a vote on their bill has been halted until after the August district work period by the Blue Dogs, a coalition of moderate Democrats. Though this bill has been stalled by the Blue Dogs' principled efforts, it has not yet been stopped.

I look forward to spending part of August to hear from the people of Alabama's First District and taking your thoughts, hopes, and concerns back with me to Washington as I continue to oppose a government takeover of America's health care.

To see a video of my floor speeches, please visit my website: <http://bonner.house.gov>

19 Town Meetings in August:

Listed below are the times and locations for our next series of town meetings in all six counties of Alabama's First District:

Monday August 17

9:00 -10:00 a.m. – Mobile, West Mobile Regional Senior Community Center

10:30 -11:30 a.m. - Tillman’s Corner, Tillman’s Corner Community Center

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Dauphin Island, Town Hall

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. – Chickasaw, City Hall

Tuesday August 18

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Citronelle, City Hall

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Wagarville, Senior Center

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Millry, Town Hall

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. - Grove Hill, Town Hall

Wednesday August 19

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. – Beatrice, First Baptist Church

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Monroeville, Old Monroe County Courthouse

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. – Uriah, Volunteer Fire Department

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Stockton, Stage Coach Restaurant

Thursday August 20

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. - Bay Minette, City Hall

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – Atmore, Poarch Creek Indian Reservation Auditorium

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. - East Brewton, City Hall

Friday August 21

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Robertsdale, City Hall

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. - Magnolia Springs, Community Center

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. - Perdido Beach, Perdido Beach Volunteer Fire Department

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Orange Beach, City Hall

I look forward to visiting in a town near you.

My staff and I work for you. If we can ever be of service, do not hesitate to call my office toll free at 1-800-288-8721.